

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

The attached sheets of drawings include changes to Fig. 1 and Fig. 6. These sheets, which include Figs. 1 and 6, replace the original sheets including Figs 1 and 6. In Fig. 1, reference numbers 2, 3 and 5b have been removed and reference number 6 has been replaced with reference number 6b. In Fig. 6, the second occurrence of S306 has been changed to S308.

Attachments: Replacement Sheets
 Annotated Sheets Showing Changes

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in light of the following remarks, wherein Claims 1, 7 and 12 have been canceled and Claims 2-5, 6, 8-10 and 13-15 have been amended.

As an initial matter, the Official Action indicates that the oath or declaration is defective because the oath or declaration is unsigned. As a result, applicants are submitting a signed declaration previously submitted on August 30, 2001. A postcard receipt is also submitted.

By way of the foregoing amendments to the specification and drawings, the objections indicated in paragraphs 2-8 have been addressed. In particular, a new title of the invention has been provided. In addition, the recitation of a "clear device" has been canceled from Claim 9 and a "data deleter" has been removed from Claim 3. In addition, the second occurrence of S306 has been replaced by S308, one of the reference numbers "5b" in Figure 1 has been removed, reference number 6 in Figure 1 has been changed to 6b, reference numbers 2 and 3 have been deleted in Figure 1 and the specification has been amended to change S546 to S456. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections to the specification and drawings is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. In particular, the Examiner does not understand how the detector detects pattern information on process data in parallel with the processing done by the output device, because the detector would have to wait until the output device outputs the process data before any detection could be

completed on it. To address this issue, the phrase "or the processed data" has been removed from the claims. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections based on 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, is respectfully requested.

On page 12 of the Official Action, the Examiner indicates that Claims 2, 6, 8, 10, 11 and 13 stand objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph and rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. As a result, independent Claims 1, 7 and 12 have been canceled, and Claims 2, 6, 8, 10 and 13 have been amended to include the subject matter of the base claim. In addition, independent Claim 15 has been amended to include the subject matter of allowable Claim 2. Accordingly, it is submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance.

Should any questions arise in connection with this application, or should the Examiner believe a telephone conference would be helpful in resolving any remaining issues pertaining to this application, the undersigned respectfully requests that she be contacted at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

BURNS, DOANE, SWECKER & MATHIS, L.L.P.

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By: Elaine P. Spector
Elaine P. Spector
Registration No. 40,116

P.O. Box 1404
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1404
(703) 836-6620

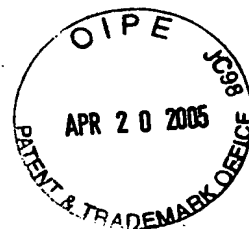


Fig. 1

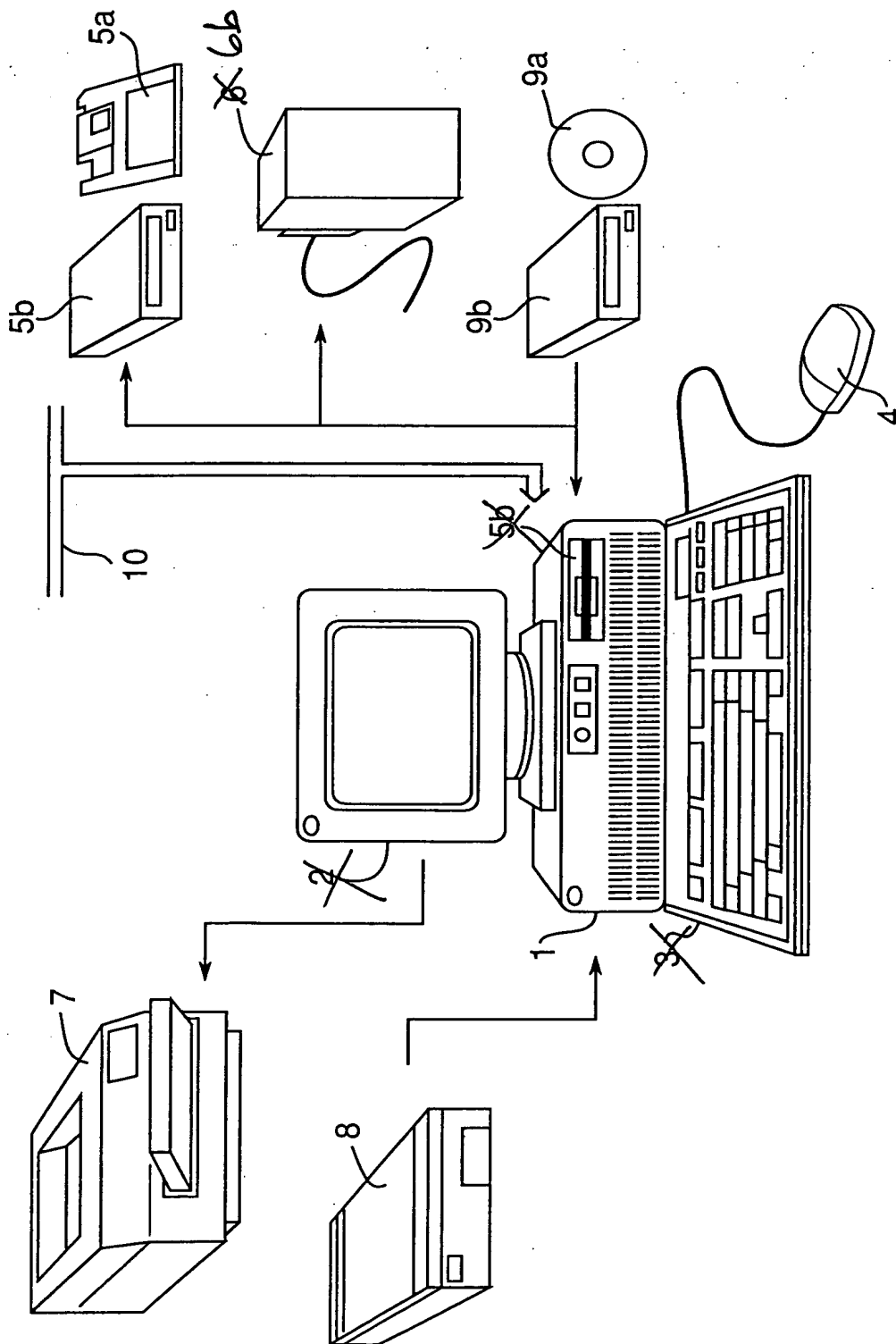




Fig.6

